

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FOR IOP/M
FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

SUMMARY: MAKING THE HEADLINES TODAY: THE COMMISSIONER OF A NEW HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION HERE AND ZAMBIA'S

WARNING TO NEIGHBORING RHODESIA NOT TO THREATEN ZAMBIA WITH A POWER BLACKOUT. THE ZAMBIA LEADER ALSO ANNOUNCED ANOTHER CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES. PARTY-OWNED TIMES OF ZAMBIA COMMENTS ON THE NEUTRON BOMB AND URGES AN END TO THE ARMS RACE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERFUL GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL COMMENTS ON THE NEW POWER STATION AND CALLS ON ZAMBIA'S TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE NEW POWER NOW AVAILABLE. VISITING YUGOSLAV VICE-PRESIDENT HOLDS TWO HOURS OF TALKS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

BELOW ARE DETAILS OF THESE AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES MAKING NEWS IN THE LOCAL PRESS:
ZAMBIA'S PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA HAS WARNED NEIGHBORING RHODESIA
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TO REFRAIN FROM ISSUING THREATS OF CUTTING POWER TO ZAMBIA BECAUSE, HE SAYS, ZAMBIA HAS A GREATER CAPACITY TO DO MORE HARM TO RHODESIA ON THAT SCORE.

SPEAKING DURING THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR KAFUE GORGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION NEAR HERE YESTERDAY, BOTH DAILY NEWSPAPERS THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA AND THE ZAMBIA DAILY

MAIL, QUOTE THE ZAMBIAN LEADER AS SAYING THAT SALISBURY S THREATS TWO MONTHS AGO TO BLACKOUT ZAMBIA WERE LATER WITHDRAWN BECAUSE THAT GOVERNMENT KNEW CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A MOVE.

REFERRING TO THAT THREAT, PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD THOSE PRESENT AT YESTERDAY S CEREMONY: "YOU KNOW THAT RECENTLY THE REBELS IN THEIR IGNORANCE ISSUED A THREAT AGAINST ZAMBIA BEFORE THE WORLD TO CUT OUR POWER SUPPLIES. THEY HAD TO APOLOGIZE THAT THEY HAD NO POWER OVER US IN THE FIELD OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES."

ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA SHARE ELECTRIC POWER FROM THEIR JOINTLY OWNED KARIBA DAM WHICH HOWEVER, IS LOCATED ON THE RHODESIA SIDE OF THE ZAMBEZI RIVER.

DR. KAUNDA, WHO SPOKE AFTER VISITING YUGOSLAV VICE-PRESIDENT, VIDEJO ZARKOVIC HAD OFFICIALLY COMMISSIONED THE POWER STATION, DESCRIBED THE NEW COMPLEX AS A SYMBOL OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM. HE SAID IT WAS PART OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPRESSION, RACISM AND FACISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE ZAMBIAN LEADER SAID THE KAFUE GORGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME WAS A PRODUCT OF VISION UNDER THE NATION PHILOSOPHY OF HUMANISM. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE COUNTRY USED TO IMPORT POWER, BUT NOW IT HAS TRANSFORMED "THIS YOUNG NATION FROM A NET IMPORTER TO A NET EXPORTER OF POWER."

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ZAMBIA, THE PRESIDENT SAID, WAS DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF YUGOSLAV, TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA FOR THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY. THE PROJECT WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE YUGOSLAV FIRM ENERGOPROJEKT.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THE SAME DAY, PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD A YOUTH DAY RALLY HERE THAT ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA TROOPS EXCHANGED HEAVY CROSS-BORDER MORTAR FIRE FOR THREE HOURS ON AUGUST 4.

THE INCIDENT, REPORT BOTH NEWSPAPERS, TOOK PLACE AT THE BORDER TOWN OF CHIRUNDU ON THE RHODESIA-ZAMBIA BORDER. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE RHODESIANS PROVOKED THE INCIDENT AND "CAUSED SOME DAMAGE TO ZAMBIA PROPERTY. HE DID NOT INDICATE IF THERE WERE ANY HUMAN CASUALTIES.

BUT HE TOLD THE RALLY THAT THE ZAMBIA FORCES REPLIED AND "SILENCED THE REBELS' MISCHIEVIOUS GUNS".

ACCORDING TO THE TWO PAPERS, DR. KAUNDA WARNED THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT THAT ZAMBIA S PATIENCE WAS RUNNING OUT AND THAT IN FUTURE "CORRECTIVE RETALIATION WILL BE MORE SERIOUS."

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THE MAIL AND THE TIMES ALSO REPORT THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS THE MAIN TOPIC DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND YUGOSLAV VICE-PRESIDENT ZARKOVIC WHEN THE TWO MET FOR TWO HOURS HERE LAST SATURDAY.

MEANWHILE, THE COMMISSIONING OF THE KAFUE GORGE POWER STATION IS THE SUBJECT OF AN EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED MAIL.

THE NEWSPAPER HAILS THE OCCASION AS AN ACHIEVEMENT OF "UNPARALLELED VISION" ON THE PART OF THE ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP.

"IN AN ERA WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS MEASURED BY THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED, THERE ARE NOT MANY COUNTRIES WHICH CAN BOAST OF HAVING PLANNED FOR MORE POWER THAN THEY NEED," SAYS THE MAIL.

KAFUE GORGE, THE PAPER SAYS, GIVES THE LIE TO THE CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WHO CLAIM THE LEADERSHIP HAS NOT SHOWN VISION IN ITS ECONOMIC PLANNING.

URGING ZAMBIA'S TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW POWER NOW MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM, THE MAIL CONCLUDES: "IF WE HAVE ZAMBIA'S AMONG US WITH SOME SPIRIT OF BUSINESS ADVENTURE IN THEM, LET THEM COME FORWARD AND MAKE FULL USE OF THE GREAT POTENTIALITIES

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WHICH THE KAFUE GORGE COMPLEX LAYS OPEN TO THEM."

IN AN EDITORIAL, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA COMMENTS ON THE ROLE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN THE WOLRD TODAY, AND CONSLUDES THAT THE MOVEMENT IS NEEDED TO INFLUENCE THE SUPPERPOWERS TO HALT MAN S DESTRUCTION.

"IT IS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT THAT THE REST OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WILL NEED TO EXERT THEIR COMBINED INFLUENCE ON THE SUPERPOWERS TO HALT MAN HEADLONG PLUNGE INTO OBLIVION THROUGH THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE," THE TIMES EDITORIAL SAYS.

THE NEWSPAPER NOTES THAT "AMERICAN S NEWEST WEAPON IS THE NEUTRON BOMB, DESCRIBED LAST WEEK BY A SRI LANKAN DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS 'AN OBSCENITY'".

"HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE PREPARING IN REPLY TO THE AMERICAN NEUTRON BOMB. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEIR MAD SCIENTISTS, AS EVIL AS THE LITTLE MEN WHO PRODUCED THE NEUTRON BOMB, ARE WORKING JUST AS FEVERISHLY TO PRODUCE A DEVICE MORE LETHAL THAN THE AMERICAN INVENTION", EDITORIALIZES THE TIMES.

THE PAPER SAYS IF THE SUPERPOWERS ARE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR ARMS RACE TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION, MAN S APOCALYPSE WILL BE BROUGHT NEARER THAN MOST OF US EVER IMAGINED." ITEM USIS LUSAKA. BURNS

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